

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Margarita, and I live in New Haven, Connecticut.

I am in support of HB 6616: AN ACT CONCERNING EXPANSION OF HUSKY HEALTH BENEFITS TO THOSE INELIGIBLE DUE TO IMMIGRATION STATUS.

This legislation is important because we all have necessities and want to be able to have routine checkups if we are ill. Sometimes, we are scared to go seek care because we are afraid of the bills that will come afterwards. Because of our immigration status, we are scared to speak up or to ask about where we can receive care. We are scared because we have no way to pay for medical bills and have no way to treat the illnesses that we have.

I am a resident, and in my experience, I have been able to have access to medical care. I went to a local clinic and they were able to help enroll me in HUSKY care. The medical professionals have all attended me very well during my visits and provided me with the necessary checkups.

My partner has diabetes and is ineligible for HUSKY due to his immigration status. This legislation would help him have access to the close follow up care he needs as well as the diabetes medications. He had to go over a year without seeing a healthcare professional because he did not have access to it.

In addition, many undocumented immigrants pay taxes. For nearly 30 years, he has paid taxes, and we believe those individuals should benefit from health care. I would like HUSKY to be expanded to all, regardless of immigration status, because many people still do not have access to care. I support this legislation and future bills that would provide all community members with medical insurance.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Margarita